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OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

12/17/03

ORIGINAL

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re Support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment
Ex Parte, WT Docket No 02-55

Dear Ms Dortch

On behalf of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council (OSFFC), I encourage you to support the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz realignment. As a fire fighter and someone who represents the career fire fighters of Oregon, effective radio communications is essential to the safety of our members and the citizens we protect on a daily basis. Having personally been involved in attempting to find solutions to the 800 MHz interference problem here in Oregon, we have worked diligently with all of the stakeholders here in Oregon to address this problem. In the interest of all, but foremost to the safety of our fire fighters and the public, we believe the Consensus Plan as proposed is clearly a step in the right direction.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with a wide spectrum of Associations including the Oregon Fire Chief's Association, Western Fire Chief's Association, and many other professional groups.

As you may be aware of, fire fighting is one of the most dangerous occupations in the nation, and when a line of duty death occurs, a lack of effective radio communications almost always plays a role in the death of a fire fighter(s). If for this reason alone, we believe it is long overdue for the FCC to move forward on addressing the interference problem, and the Consensus Plan does just that – moves us forward.

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While some groups may outright oppose the Consensus Plan and others would like to "study the matter further", the fact remains that there is still significant communication issues to tackle, and further delays will continue to put our fire fighters, other emergency responders, and the public at greater risk. No plan is the perfect plan, but the proposed Consensus Plan is a step in the right direction, and on behalf of the Oregon State Fire Fighters, we believe taking steps sooner rather than later is in the best interest of our members and the citizens of Oregon

We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt the terms of the Consensus Plan

Sincerely,

Bob Livingston
Legislative Director, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

CC Mike McNeill, 9th District Vice President, IAFF, (hard copy to follow)